

**FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
KEY WEST BUREAU**




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MFL-6013
6 June 1986

MEMORANDUM TO: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT: Monthly Report--Key West Bureau--May 1986

I. GENERAL

The estimated completion date on the base housing project has slipped still further, with current guesstimate now the latter part of July. The window units finally arrived on 22 May, which will allow completion of remaining interior work. Sewer connections, paving, landscaping, and other exterior work is yet to be completed. Project now stands at about 85 percent complete. Imposition of a \$100 per day penalty clause went into effect on 26 May. The question of the need for an additional seawall is still unresolved, awaiting further action from Naval Facilities Engineering Command/Southern Division. The not-insignificant issue of how much rent housing occupants will be charged is still awaiting a decision from OL/RECD. 

The housing project received some publicity in the local press in conjunction with the city's failure to meet a GSA deadline for purchase of 103 acres on Truman Annex declared excess by the Navy (the land will now be sold at public auction in September). A recent letter to the editor in The Key West CITIZEN on this issue noted: "The government is currently building beautiful new housing in the Fort Taylor area of the Navy base. While Key Westers are strong supporters of the Navy, they would like a small portion of the Key West waterfront for their city's growth needs. The Annex is the only prime waterfront available to Key West."

The bureau modernization effort inched forward slightly with the arrival of the BACH software and LSL database, but disappointingly the software is not compatible with bureau's Extel equipment. The communications tie-in is awaiting delivery of a new F/ROM from Extel.

✓ The recruiting of new monitors continues, with the successful testing of a local candidate. A second candidate tested by MOD also looks promising.

Further evaluation of new antenna systems continued during the month. Of the two Yagi TV antennas installed on the new TV tower on 3 May, the one for Havana CH 9 is performing excellently, meeting or exceeding our expectations, but the antenna for CH 13 suffers interference from a powerful Tampa station being received off the back end. Efforts to successfully block this interference continue.

The third and final phase of a cruising survey at NAS Boca Chica was conducted 29 May-3 June to determine potential for remote monitoring of mediumwave broadcasts from the eastern Caribbean. While there was significant improvement in reception from the Dominican Republic and Haiti, it is uncertain whether it justifies the expense of a remote monitoring operation.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

Cuba celebrated May Day with the customary workers parade and a relatively brief speech by labor leader Roberto Veiga. Even though thousands of workers participated in the parade, the entire ceremony only lasted a little over 2 hours.

Recent economic woes have apparently prompted President Fidel Castro to take to the airwaves more frequently. He made several formal speeches during the month, attended many meetings, and inspected a number of work centers and construction sites. On 19 May Castro addressed the second national meeting of Agricultural Production Cooperatives for 1 hour and 19 minutes (processing was shared with Panama Bureau via phone patch). Castro ordered the termination of all Peasant's Free Markets, terming them neo-capitalistic and a source of enrichment for lumpen and other undesirables who were taking advantage of the peasants and populace in general. Two other speeches during the month concentrated on improvements in medical services.

Elsewhere in the Caribbean, general elections were held in the Dominican Republic on 16 May following a violent electoral campaign by contending factions. Results were not official until 27 May when ruling party candidate Jacobo Majluta finally conceded defeat by Reformist Party candidate Joaquin Balaguer, an aging and almost blind politician making a political comeback. Balaguer previously occupied the presidency from 1966 to 1978.

Barbados also held national elections on 28 May in which the opposition Democratic Labor Party returned to power for the first time since 1976. Earl W. Barrow immediately assumed the premiership. The Barbados Labor Party suffered from lack of a charismatic candidate following the recent demise of Premier Tom Adams, as well as worsening economic problems and high unemployment.

In Mexico, a wave of nationwide indignation arose in response to U.S. Senate hearings which blamed widespread and high-level corruption as the primary cause of increased drug trafficking across the border.

B. Communications

On 28 May the local Naval Communications Unit installed revised software in its Mode I processor which would again provide input needed by MIDAS for "pinkie-coding." However, it was soon discovered that new software was generating extraneous characters in end-of-message format which prevented automatic handling of bureau traffic by State Department computers. It is hoped the problem will be corrected in the near future.

C. Technical

As the last in a series of experiments with non-resonant longwire antennas at Boca Chica Naval Air Station, 10 miles northeast of bureau, on 22 May our antenna contractor completed installation of a 1,700-ft single-wire Beverage antenna with a boresight bearing of 108 degrees true north. Strung diagonally across a large field completely free of obstructions, this third antenna is the closest so far to a perfect Beverage. The antenna has much improved directional characteristics as evidenced by drastic attenuation of signals from directions other than those covered by the main lobe. Bureau cruising monitor evaluated this antenna from 29 May-3 June from a specially equipped rental van. Although this antenna proved to be significantly better for mediumwave broadcasts than any existing antenna at the bureau site on Truman Annex, further evaluation is necessary to determine if some sort of remote operation would be cost effective. It should be noted that proper grounding of all cables and equipment used in survey, including the van, eliminated all interference generated by a nearby radar site.

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The Scala Yagi TV antennas for Ch. 9 and 13, replacements for the log periodic antenna destroyed in the tower collapse last November, were installed by our antenna

contractor on 3 May. The Ch. 9 Yagi has met or exceeded our expectations. However, the Ch. 13 antenna and amplifier's greater sensitivity suffers interference off the back end from "Big Thirteen," a 316-KW TV station in Tampa, Florida. In coordination with Scala tech reps, several potential solutions to this interference are being considered.

Full rehabilitation of the Hermes shortwave antenna received from Bangkok will not be quite as expensive as projected since four of the five spare preamps received from Headquarters were found to be fully functional. Six of the eight arrays are now operational.

The last of the antennas damaged in the November tower accident, a 6.0 MHZ dipole, was refurbished and reinstalled.

Monitoring booth No. 5, occupied by the Operations Officer, was integrated into the push-button antenna switching system.

D. Cruising

The third and final phase of a cruising survey at Boca Chica NAS to determine potential of a remote monitoring site was conducted 29 May-3 June. This third antenna, a 1,700-ft non-resonant Beverage-type oriented on 108 degrees true north, could not be directly aimed on primary target of Hispaniola due to terrain limitations. However, this antenna produced the best improvement in signal strength over any currently installed on bureau premises. There was significant improvement in nighttime reception of 5-20 KW mediumwave broadcasts from Haiti and the Dominican Republic. For example, the 20-KW Port-au-Prince Domestic Service in French on 1080 KHZ, normally unmonitorable at bureau location due to co-channel interference from Radio Cadena Habana and WVCG in Coral Gables, was monitorable from shortly after sunset to shortly before sunrise. The same was true for several Dominican stations, but no major newscasts were monitored during that timeframe. Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil broadcasts in French and Haitian Creole were improved but still suffered from splashover by Radio Marti's Spanish broadcasts.

None of the surveys showed improved reception of mediumwave broadcasts from Jamaica during this summer season. However, there was significant enhancement of signal strength from transmitters in central and eastern Cuba than currently available at the bureau. There was also slight improvement in mediumwave broadcasts from lesser priority targets in the eastern Caribbean. A number of shortwave stations in northeastern South America were also audible, but only for brief periods.

No further experimentation with single-wire antennas is planned, but it is assumed that a two-wire Beverage would further though not significantly improve reception at Boca Chica. The fall/winter propagation season, usually the best time of year for mediumwave reception, should show additional improvement.

III. ADMINISTRATION

Personnel

1. Contract teletypist [] went on LWOP status as of 10 May. He returned to North Carolina to await outcome of his application for full-time employment with another component.

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2. Monitor/editor [] received a well-deserved promotion to GS-09 effective 11 May.

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IV. VISITS

1. Navy LTJG Vicki Boyd, ENS David Baroudi, Petty Officer D. Goodell, and Marine SGT J. Dasher, reservists on temporary duty with COMUSFORCARIB/J2, visited bureau on 7 May for orientation and briefing on FBIS field operations.

2. [] a military dependent residing in Key West, visited bureau on 28 May to test for a monitorial vacancy. A request for EOD processing will be forwarded as soon as PHS package has been returned.

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Chief, Key West Bureau

Attachment:

Production Report

cc: C/Panama, C/Paraguay Bureaus

KEY WEST BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR MAY 1986

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH: 150,450TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH : 24,430TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH : 561

	BROADCAST	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLICATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:	2,575	14,700	21
(PUBLISHABLE WORDS PER WEEK	MIN	MIN	ISSUES
III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:			
(PUBLISHABLE WORDS PER MONTH)			

BAHAMAS

Nassau Domestic Service 840
in EnglishNassau THE TRIBUNE 4,070
in English

BARBADOS

Bridgetown CANA 55,500
in EnglishBridgetown ADVOCATE in English 750Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE -0-
in English

BELIZE

Belize City Domestic Service 260
in English

CUBA

Havana Radio Progreso Network 8,720
in SpanishHavana Radio Reloj Network 8,190
in SpanishHavana Radio Rebelde Network 20,670
in SpanishHavana Radio Periodico Del Aire 3,450
in Spanish

KEY WEST BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR MAY 1986

CUBA

Havana Domestic Service in Spanish	<u>3,490</u>
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Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish	<u>2,490</u>
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Havana Television Cubana Network in Spanish	<u>6,950</u>
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Havana Television Service in Spanish	<u>8,630</u>
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DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Santo Domingo Cadena Brea Pena in Spanish	<u>-0-</u>
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Santo Domingo Radio Antillas Network in Spanish	<u>3,520</u>
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Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish	<u>660</u>
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JAMAICA

Kingston Domestic Service in English	<u>-0-</u>
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Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English	<u>560</u>
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Kingston SUNDAY GLEANER in English	<u>1,240</u>
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MEXICO

Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish	<u>15,400</u>
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NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

Bonaire Trans World Radio in English	<u>2,810</u>
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THE NETHERLANDS

Hilversum International in English	<u>130</u>
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SURINAME

Paramaribo International Service in English	<u>1,210</u>
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~~OTHER SOURCES:~~